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25 NOV 2002

Your Reference: SJB/P11701
Application No: GB 0217024.9

22 November 2002

The Patent Office
Patents Directorate

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Dear Sirs

Patents Act 1977: Search Report under Section 17(5)

I enclose two copies of my search report and a copy of the citations.

Publication

I estimate that, provided you have met all formal requirements, preparations for publication of your application will be completed soon after **16 December 2003**. You will then receive a letter informing you of completion and telling you the publication number and date of publication.

Amendment/withdrawal

If you wish to file amended claims for inclusion with the published application, or to withdraw the application to prevent publication, you must do so before the preparations for publication are completed. **No reminder will be issued.** If you write to the Office less than 3 weeks before the above completion date, please mark your letter prominently: **"URGENT - PUBLICATION IMMINENT".**

Yours faithfully

Bridie Collier

Bridie Collier
Examiner

[†]**Use of E-mail:** Please note that e-mail should be used for correspondence only.



Application No: GB 0217024.9
Claims searched: 1 - 9

Examiner: Bridie Collier
Date of search: 21 November 2002

Patents Act 1977
Search Report under Section 17

Databases searched:

UK Patent Office collections, including GB, EP, WO & US patent specifications, in:

UK Cl (Ed.T): B1T (TNEE, TNFD, TNRB) ; B1D (DNFD)

Int Cl (Ed.7): B01D 29/11, 29/23, 29/25, 29/35, 29/90, 46/00 ; F04B 39/16

Other: Online: WPI, EPODOC, JAPIO

Documents considered to be relevant:

Category	Identity of document and relevant passage	Relevant to claims
A	DE 10019293 A (ZANDER)	
A	US 4516994 A (VILTER)	

X	Document indicating lack of novelty or inventive step	A	Document indicating technological background and/or state of the art.
Y	Document indicating lack of inventive step if combined with one or more other documents of same category.	P	Document published on or after the declared priority date but before the filing date of this invention.
&	Member of the same patent family	E	Patent document published on or after, but with priority date earlier than, the filing date of this application.